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Truly, Except - the Lord build the house, they labour but - on vain
that build it: when the Lord builds, they labour also - but,
not in vain. There is the promise in the edifying of the
~~father~~ ^{other} righteous & goodly Christian character, except
as we shall labour, laying brick upon brick,
We may well believe that, in this matter, the
Lord & Giver of life, Himself, ~~states it is as a~~ graciously
undertakes the office of Parent to every willing & obedient
Child. But here is where the privilege & the responsibility of
the human parent - comes in: during the week ~~stands~~
years of the child. the laying of brick to brick falls
to the parent - the foundation & the lower course
rounds of the building upon which the ~~rest~~
~~mass stands~~ - of whose stability - the safety of
the whole depends. It rests with the parent to instill
goodness, as it were: to lay such habits - good, doing
well, being as are fit ^{to support} for a building of God, & able
to bear the weight of the ~~weighty & beautiful superstructure~~ ^{great}.

Parents labour at - the very ground work, the
foundations, of the new goodness that shall be; and
though the divine power is well able to beautify
the mean & add strength to the tottering, nevertheless,
experience supports the record, that to him such
help shall be given: that strength shall be added
to strength, & grace, to beauty. Therefore, it behoves
parents to study the principles of this divine architecture
which is their vocation. No random, purposeless
heaping of stone upon stone will do here: no, no
an unimpaired attempt - to build after a design.
There are laws to be followed, principles to be
worked out. And let it not stagger our weak
faith

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faith that these laws are enforced as well as spiritual.
It is not that corporeal laws govern the body, &
spiritual laws, the thinking part of us: it is, that the
who hath redeemed our vile body hath made of
both one man: when we shall perceive how
physical & moral conditions co-operate ~~show~~^{show}
~~we are able to~~^{we are able to} employ these conditions, we shall have made
one more step towards entering on the heritage of
redeemed humanity. But most unwisely
protest against the materialistic temper
which would place the body & all that pertains to
it under a lower, - the spirit; & that which is of
it, under a higher law. Both are governed from
above, & if it become more & more plain that
the body exists for the uses of the spirit, what then?
Have we not always known as much?

But: What becomes of conversion? has
been asked in this connexion: a needless
question, perhaps, for we know that conversion
is not the building up of character, but is the
appalling & importunately repeated recognition of its
loss by the Lord of men; & that, whether it be one
great miracle of grace, or the thousand precious
conversions that come to each of us, when the
Lord turns His about - looks upon us, & we for
ourselves weep bitterly - to be, sweetly restored.
Here we come within the sphere of higher laws
than we can know anything about: it is ours only
to bring capacity for this infinite fulness of satisfaction.
As for the marvellous growth of character that
follows conversion, is it ^{marvellous} ~~marvellous~~, considering
the ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{Builder?}